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Fatal fire (rewrite)

Two women died after a space heater caused a fire Thursday night in a New Jersey group home for homeless people.

Police rescued another woman from a burning bedroom on the second floor of the home. The 56-year-old woman was taken to the hospital with first-degree burns and is in stable condition.

The two victims were both adults, but have not yet been identified, Fair Lawn Police Chief Glen Faison said.

Two 911 calls came minutes apart just before midnight about a fire on the second floor of the home, Faison said.

Two police officers arrived first and entered through the front door where they rescued a 69-year-old woman from the first floor.

The officers attempted to climb the stairs to the second floor but were pushed back by the flames, Faison said.

The officers ran back outside and heard screams from a woman on the second floor, Faison said. The flames had engulfed the bedroom above the garage and flames poured out the front window. The woman screamed that she was on fire and her legs were burning.

The officers moved into the garage and found a wooden bed frame, which they tilted against the side of the garage, Faison said. Officer Juan Rodriguez climbed up the frame like a ladder to the second floor and helped the woman down to safety. On his way down, Rodriguez caught his foot in the gutter and fell onto the concrete below. Rodriguez was treated at the hospital for a sprained ankle and a bruised and swollen knee and then released.

Firefighters put out the fire and retrieved the victims from bedrooms on the second floor, Faison said. One of the victims was found on the floor and the other was in bed.